

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 12982 041555Z

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ACTION EB-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-06 ISO-00 L-03 CAB-09 RSC-01 DRC-01 /033 W
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R 041533Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4492

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, UK

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR FREE AIR TRANSPORTATION

1. THE EMBASSY HAS BEEN APPROACHED SEVERAL TIMES IN THE PAST FEW MONTHS BY THE PUBLISHING DIRECTOR OF THE TIMES NEWSPAPERS (MR. DEREK JEWELL) WITH A REQUEST THAT FREE AIR TRANSPORTATION BY PAN AMERICAN BE AUTHORIZED FOR THE DUKE ELLINGTON BAND IN CONNECTION WITH A CHARITY CONCERT IN LONDON NOW PLANNED FOR SPRING 1975; ABOUT TWENTY PERSONS ARE EXPECTED TO BE INCLUDED IN THE BAND. MR. JEWELL INFORMED US THAT THE PANAM LONDON OFFICE HAS TOLD HIM THAT PANAM WOULD BE PLEASED TO PROVIDE THE FREE TRANSPORTATION REQUESTED IF THE CIVIL AERONAUTICS BOARD WILL ISSUE THE REQUIRED WAIVER. THE EMBASSY, HOWEVER, HAS NOT BEEN APPROACHED BY PANAM IN SUPPORT OF THIS PROPOSAL.

2. THE EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THE DEPARTMENT'S AND CAB'S POLICY, ON FREE TRANSPORTATION AND WE HAVE EXPLAINED IT TO MR. JEWELL. WE HAVE POINTED OUT THAT, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF INSTANCES WHERE FREE TRANSPORTATION IS REQUESTED IN CONNECTION WITH EMERGENCY HUMANITARIAN PROJECTS, IN PARTICULAR TO PROVIDE MEDICAL SERVICE TO PERSONS WHO CANNOT OBTAIN THE SERVICE IN THEIR OWN COUNTRY NOR AFFORD THE AIR FARE TO THE UNITED STATES WHERE SUCH SERVICE HAS BEEN OFFERED TO THEM, REQUESTS FOR FREE TRANSPORTATION ARE ALMOST NEVER SUPPORTED BY THE DEPARTMENT. THESE EXPLANATIONS, HOWEVER, HAVE NOT DETERRED MR. JEWELL FROM MAKING A FORMAL REQUEST TO THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 LONDON 12982 041555Z

MINISTER IN A LETTER OF SEPTEMBER 20, 1974 (COPY BEING

POUCHED TO OA/AVP-DUDLEY).

3. COMMENT: THE EMBASSY FULLY APPRECIATES THE RATIONALE BEHIND THE DEPARTMENT'S STRICT ADHERENCE TO THE POLICY OF CONTAINING AND LIMITING THE AMOUNT OF FREE TRANSPORTATION WHICH U.S. AIR CARRIERS PROVIDE. CLEARLY, THE ECONOMIC ARGUMENTS IN FAVOR OF SUCH A POLICY HAVE PARTICULAR RELEVANCE TODAY IN VIEW OF THE FINANCIAL CONDITION OF OUR INTERNATIONAL AIR CARRIERS. IN ADDITION, IT MUST BE ADMITTED THAT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO CLASSIFY THIS REQUEST AS "A LAUDABLE HUMANITARIAN GESTURE" WHICH IS THE BASIS FOR THE DEPARTMENT'S RECOMMENDATION TO CAB THAT A REQUEST FOR WAIVER BY A CARRIER SHOULD BE CONSIDERED FAVORABLY. NONETHELESS, IN VIEW OF THE BENEFICIAL IMPACT A CHARITY PERFORMANCE BY THE DUKE ELLINGTON BAND AS PROPOSED BY MR. JEWELL WOULD HAVE IN MAINTAINING THE OVERALL GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND THE US, THE EMBASSY SUBMITS THESE FACTS FOR THE DEPARTMENT TO CONSIDER WHETHER IT COULD SUPPORT THIS REQUEST FOR A WAIVER AS AN EXCEPTION TO THE GENERAL POLICY.

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